

Small NEPA Minerals Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2018 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Pacific)
Salmon Conference Room, Grangeville (or by phone: see below)

This meeting is designed to discuss the issues and make decisions (where needed) on the minerals projects currently listed for Small NEPA.

Detailed information on the projects listed below can be found in “!Jeff Chynoweth Workspace” in the “Small NEPA Minerals Meeting” folder.

Time: 0900 - 0915

Projects: Completed – the DM for the following project is being reviewed.

1. Max #2 Placer Exploration (SR)

Projects: Status Quo – these projects will continue toward completion through small NEPA process.

1. Center Star Exploration (RR)
2. Gold Bug AML Closure (P)
3. Gold Dust Mining (P)
4. Sally Exploration Drilling (RR)
5. Steamboat Placer Exploration (SR)

Time: 0915 - 0950

Projects: Paused – these projects have issues delaying them from moving forward in small NEPA process.

1. AML Closures – Forestwide
 - TEAMS could not find all of the adits. Heritage will need to go to the field anew.
2. Baldy Creek Placer Exploration (RR)
 - Access includes going up Newsome Creek; similar issue as Heritage Gulch/Heritage 2 below?
 - LAA Steelhead and Bull Trout. Need to find alternate stream crossings or temporary structures to avoid disturbance. Needs site visit and Level 1 consultation.
3. Cherry Exploration Drilling (RR)
 - Bull Trout, Spring Chinook and Critical Habitat present. Need a site visit to determine alternate crossing. Proposal does not meet programmatic, a Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion required.
4. Blue Ribbon Test Drilling (RR), and
5. Lost Bench Placer Exploration (RR)
 - Unauthorized mining in Siegel Creek drainage. Currently under investigation by LEO. Time-frame for when reclamation will be completed unknown.
 - Fisheries – (BR) Bull Trout, Spring Chinook and Critical Habitat present. Needs Level 1 consultation; (LB) LAA Steelhead and Bull Trout / NLAA for Critical Habitat. May require a Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion. Needs Level 1 consultation.

Break: 0950 – 1000

Time: 1000 - 1200

Projects: NEPA Status Undecided – these projects have issues that may elevate them to an EA.

1. Rex Placer Exploration (SR)
 - The density of historic mining remains within the project area increases the complexity in consultation. Determining EXACTLY where the project is proposed is of paramount importance to protect historic properties. The answer to this question may indicate these sites cannot be adequately protected and thus require an adverse effect call in consultation which would have an extraordinary circumstance.
2. Devine (Pioneer) Exploration (RR)
 - The proposal is for exploration to be completed in 8 years, with reclamation of sites and access road in year 9. As proposed, the proposal does not meet CE category 220.6(e)(8).
3. Heritage Gulch Placer Exploration (RR) and
4. Heritage 2 Placer Exploration (RR)
 - The issues are the same for both projects: Access to the project area (same for both) is by Forest Road 1858 up Newsome Creek to Forest Road 1826, up Road 1826 to Trail 819 to Newsome Creek, up Newsome Creek via Trail 826 to the project site.
 1. Fisheries biologists have determined (but not documented through a BA) that both projects would have significant effects on Fisheries resources, i.e. Steelhead and Bull Trout and their critical habitat. Requires BA and Biological Opinion.
 2. Both Heritage Gulch and Heritage 2 are within sections of the Newsome Creek watershed restoration project implemented by the Nez Perce Tribe.

Telephone Participant Instructions

Dial **1-888-844-9904**. After the voice prompt, dial **4975937#**.